

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (previously presented): A socket for an electric part, comprising a socket body, a plurality of contact pins disposed on said socket body and each capable of clamping corresponding one of terminals of an electric part placed on a rest face of said socket body between contact portions formed at tip ends of a pair of resilient pieces, and two slide plates mounted for horizontal sliding movement in different directions relative to said socket body by an upward and downward urging motion of an upper operating member, so that said slide plates are slid in the different directions by applying a pressing force for urging said upper operating member downwards to resiliently deform said resilient pieces in spacing directions, thereby opening-out the contact portions of said contact pin, and so that said slide plates are slid back to their original position by releasing the pressing force to said upper operating member, thereby decreasing the resilient deformation of said resilient pieces in approaching directions to displace the contact portions of said contact pin toward each other, thus clamping each of the terminals of the electric part.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A socket according to claim 3, wherein an X shaped lever member is provided between said upper operating member and said two slide plates whereby urging motion on said operating member is transmitted to said two slide plates.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A socket for an electric part, comprising a lower socket body, a plurality of contact pins disposed on said lower socket body and each capable of clamping a corresponding one of terminals of an electric part and each comprising a pair of opposing upwardly extending resilient pieces, two slide plates mounted for horizontal sliding movement in different directions relative to said socket body, each of said two slide plates including a plurality of pressing portions wherein one of said plurality of pressing portions from each of said two slide plates is provided between each of said pair of opposing upwardly extending resilient pieces of said plurality of contact pins, and an upper operating member coupled to said lower socket body and said two slide plates so that said two slide plates are slid in the different horizontal directions by applying a pressing force to said upper operating member for urging said upper operating member downwards to resiliently separate each of said pair of said opposing upwardly extending resilient pieces, thereby opening each of said pair of opposing upwardly extending resilient pieces of said plurality of contact pins and so that said two slide

plates are horizontally slid back to their original position by releasing the pressing force to said upper operating member, thereby allowing each of said pair of opposing upwardly extending resilient pieces of said plurality of contact pins to approach each other, thus clamping each of the terminals of the electric part.

Claim 6 (presently amended): [[The]] A socket according to claim 5, for an electric part, comprising a lower socket body, a plurality of contact pins disposed on said lower socket body and each capable of clamping a corresponding one of terminals of an electric part and each comprising a pair of opposing upwardly extending resilient pieces, two slide plates mounted for horizontal sliding movement in different directions relative to said socket body, each of said two slide plates including a plurality of pressing portions wherein one of said plurality of pressing portions from each of said two slide plates is provided between each of said pair of opposing upwardly extending resilient pieces of said plurality of contact pins, and an upper operating member coupled to said lower socket body and said two slide plates so that said two slide plates are slid in the different horizontal directions by applying a pressing force to said upper operating member for urging said upper operating member downwards to resiliently separate each of said pair of said opposing upwardly extending resilient pieces, thereby opening each of said pair of opposing upwardly extending resilient pieces of said plurality of contact pins and so that said two slide plates are horizontally slid back to their original position by releasing the pressing force to said upper operating member, thereby allowing each of said pair of opposing upwardly extending resilient pieces of said plurality of contact pins to approach each other, thus clamping each of the terminals of the electric part, and

wherein said upper operating member is coupled to said two slide plates by means of a pair of lever members forming an X-shaped link mechanism.